

John Morley (Public Health Wales)

From: FOI (Public Health Wales)
Subject: FW: Freedom of Information Request

In regards to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act detailed here:

“ Especially since the legalisation of medical marijuana in all 50 US states, has the public health Wales NHS trust held discussions about legalising medical marijuana in the Wales, in 2014 to the present? Please release relevant recorded information”

Our Answer

Public Health Wales have not been part of any discussions about legalising medical marijuana in Wales at any time up to the present.

This issue of legalisation of marijuana for medical use, in the same way as has happened in the US would be an issue for UK government as Marijuana is controlled – and as such this is not a devolved issue over which Wales could make decisions separate from UK government.

In our duty to assist and advise under the act, I would like to draw your attention to a cannabis-based medicinal product which is licensed for use in the UK under limited circumstances. However, this isn't a legalisation of marijuana in the way that it's happened in the US.

In June 2010, Cannabis extract was authorised by the UK Medicines Healthcare Regulatory products Agency (MHRA) as a medicine in the form of an oromucosal spray (Sativex™). This can be legally prescribed (specialist use only) and supplied as an add-on treatment for patients with spasticity due to Multiple Sclerosis. Should it be prescribed outside of this indication, this would be at the prescriber's own risk. Since April 2013, Sativex™ has been separated from Cannabis in terms of legislation and is classified as a Schedule 4 Part 1 Controlled Drug. However, it is still a Class B Controlled Drug and so possession, supply, possession with intent to supply, importation and exportation are all still offences outside of this. Re-supply of prescribed medication (except to a person legally allowed to possess it) is unlawful supply.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of the decision, you should write to the Corporate Complaints Manager, Public Health Wales NHS Trust, 14 Cathedral Road Cardiff, CF11 9LJ

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner for Wales
2nd Floor
Churchill House
Churchill Way
Cardiff
CF10 2HH

Telephone: 029 2067 8400
Email: wales@ico.org.uk

Kind regards

John

Ivor John Morley

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Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gwmraeg neu'r Saesneg
We welcome correspondance in Welsh or English